

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7605

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14603

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XF, IT, IS

SUBJECT: ITALIAN POSITION ON PLO AT UNGA

SUMMARY. GOI INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS AMBASSADORS IN NEW YORK AND ARAB
CAPITALS PROVIDE FULLER PICTURE OF THINKING BEHIND ITALIAN
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON PLO PARTICIPATION AT UNGA PLENARY. THEY TEND
TO CONFIRM THAT GOI GIVE ON QUOTE PROCEDURAL UNQUOTE QUESTION WAS
INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN MODERATES IN PLO AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS, AND
BETTER TO POSITION GOI VIS-A-VIS ARABS AS VOICE OF MODERATION
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AND REALISM IN FORTHCOMING DEBATES. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF WAS RECENTLY SHOWN FOREIGN MINISTRY INSTRUCTIONS, TO AMB. PLAJA IN NEW YORK AND TO ITALIAN AMBASSADORS IN ARAB CAPITALS, ON ITALIAN VOTE ON PLO/UNGA ISSUE.

2. PRE-VOTE INSTRUCTIONS TO PLAJA INCLUDED FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

(A) LACK OF PRECEDENT FOR NON-STATE REPRESENTATION IN PLENARY DOES NOT, IN GOI VIEW, CONSTITUTE A RULE AGAINST, AND IS THEREFOR NOT AN OVER-RIDING CONSIDERATION FOR GOI.

(B) NEVERTHELESS GOI VOTE ON THE PROCEDURAL POINT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS CHANGE OF ITS VIEW ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ME QUESTION SINCE GOI POSITION REMAINS THAT EXPRESSED BY THE EC-NINE ON NOVEMBER 6, 1973, INCLUDING RESPECT BOTH FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS AND RECOGNITION THAT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

(C) GOI WISHES TO ENCOURAGE A MODERATE, CONSTRUCTIVE AND REALISTIC PLO POSITION IN UN DEBATES.

(D) WHILE GOI VOTE SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS INTERFERENCE, GOI WOULD BE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT JORDAN AS QUOTE SOLE UNQUOTE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

3. POST-VOTE MESSAGE TO ARAB CAPITALS ATTEMPTS TO MAKE MAXIMUM MILEAGE OUT OF THE VOTE; AMBASSADORS ARE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS TO HOST GOVERNMENTS:

(A) GOI HOPES THAT UNGA DECISION WILL ENCOURAGE PLO TO ADOPT A REALISTIC STANCE AND TO PURSUE ITS GOALS BY PEACEFUL AND LEGAL MEANS UNDER RES. 242.

(B) GOI VOTE DOES NOT COMPRISE A JUDGMENT ON QUOTE DEGREE OF REPRESENTATIVITY UNQUOTE OF PLO, SINCE IT IS NOT FOR QUOTE OUTSIDERS UNQUOTE TO JUDGE WHAT MUST LIE QUOTE IN THE COMPETENCE OF THE ARAB WORLD UNQUOTE.

(C) FACT THAT EC WAS NOT UNANIMOUS ON THE VOTE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN BY ARABS AS INDICATIVE OF SPLIT, SINCE ALL NINE
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CONTINUE UNITED ON SUBSTANCE OF QUESTION, AS PER NOVEMBER 6, 1973, STATEMENT OF THE NINE.

4. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTRACT INDICATED THAT GOI DECISION HAD BEEN TOUGH ONE SINCE ITALY RECOGNIZES THE DANGERS INVOLVED. FIRST FEEDBACKS (LEBANON, TUNISIA AND EGYPT) FROM ARAB CAPITALS ARE ENCOURAGING, HOWEVER, EVEN GRANTING THAT SYRIA, IRAQ AND LIBYA HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM.

SO FAR, GOI THINKS THAT ITS VOTE HAS STRENGTHENED ROLE OF
REASONABLE ELEMENTS AT THE UPCOMING RABAT CONFERENCE. VOLPE

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